

*With great enthusiasm and highest expectations,*  
**THE STRATFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORLD LANGUAGE/ESOL DEPARTMENT**  
*Welcomes you to our District Programs and Classes!*

We are very pleased to offer the rewards of foreign language study as part of each child's comprehensive education. Every student has the opportunity to benefit from a wide variety of individual study areas, which combine to contribute to a lifetime of intellectual growth, productivity, satisfaction, and well-being.

**Why study foreign and classical languages?**

*"Foreign language instruction should be a part of every child's education. A language is more than sounds and syntax: it is a culture, a way of thinking, and a perspective on the world. Each language is a precious resource that must be studied, used, and preserved precisely because a language opens the mind to new possibilities. The study of language is the study of life, literature, history, and thought. It is nothing less than the study of our world and ourselves."*

Former Secretary of Education, Rod Paige

**Research has shown that foreign language study:**

- Enhances cognitive development, creativity, higher order thinking skills and academic achievement.
- Strengthens first language proficiency and improves memory, listening, and all communicative skills.
- Engenders positive attitudes toward linguistic and cultural diversity.
- Improves standardized test scores and casts favorable light on college admissions.
- Incorporates 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills to prepare students for success in our ever-evolving workplace.
- Expands career opportunities in today's competitive, global, and increasingly technological society.

**How do we accomplish all of this?**

*By combining the 5 C's of World Language study:*

- **Communication - Culture - Connections - Comparisons - Communities**

*with the 7 Cs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning:*

- **Collection of Information - Collaboration - Communication - Creativity - Critical Thinking - Character - College and Career Preparation.**

**How can we accomplish all this?** *By being attentive, adventurous, cooperative, communicative, creative, expressive, industrious, meticulous, perceptive, reflective, respectful, technological, tolerant, and sensitive!*

Foreign language study challenges the mind, spirit, and body simultaneously and unlocks the world!

**Our secondary curriculum offers sequential courses in Spanish, French, and Latin.**

French and Spanish represent the 2nd and 3rd most influential modern languages in the world after English. Latin is their ever-present foundation stone and source of abundant cognates and linguistic treasure.

- Course levels typically run 1-5 AP/ECE with Honors credit in Spanish 2-3-4, French 2-3-4, & Latin 2-3-4.
- Middle school Fr. or Sp. students may register for level 2 courses in 9th grade or elect Latin 1.
- Students wishing to learn a language not available may apply to the Southern CT Language & Cultural Exposure Program, which is affiliated with Yale University.
- All courses feature modern texts with ample supporting instructional and technological materials including new wireless, portable language labs and Rosetta Stone programming.

**English Language Learners (ELLs)** receive specialized support and services from **ESOL** (English to Speakers of Other Languages) teachers/tutors who often accompany ELLs to mainstream classes or meet with them out of class to provide additional support and guidance. At SHS, sheltered English & American History courses are taught. Designated ESOL site schools include SHS, FMS, SHL, Eli Whitney, Wilcoxson, and Honeyspot.

**Foreign Language in Elementary School (FLES)** – Spanish instruction is currently offered in Grades K-6.

**For a complete description of course offerings, please access our district's web site.**

*"Because the study of language and culture is inextricably intertwined, students of language and culture are better equipped to communicate with people in other cultures in a variety of settings, to look beyond their customary borders, and to act with greater awareness of self, of other cultures, and their own relationship to those cultures."*

National Standards in Foreign Language Education Project